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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION MEMORANDUM



TRANSFER AND CONVERSION  
OF NORTH KOREAN  
TORPEDO BOATS

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## TRANSFER AND CONVERSION OF NORTH KOREAN TORPEDO BOATS

The transfer by the North Korean Navy, of P-6 units (Figure 1) from the East Sea Fleet to the West Sea Fleet and the conversion of these units from torpedo boats (PT) to motor gun boats (PGM) emphasizes the continuing reinforcement of coastal defense forces, particularly at facilities near the seaward approaches to Inchon, South Korea.

Overhead photography [ ] revealed a total of 10 P-6 PT, all of which were observed on the East coast. Photography [ ] revealed the P-6 order of battle had steadily decreased to an observed total of three units by [ ]

Ground photographs taken on the west coast in late [ ] made possible the identification of the P-6 PGM, which is a modified P-6 PT with the torpedo tubes removed and refitted with two 37mm main mounts and two twin-barrel 25mm secondary mounts (Figure 2). Subsequent aerial photography has revealed a total of six P-6 PGM conversions on the west coast, based primarily at the Haeju Naval Base and the Sagon-ni Naval Base. Overhead photography indicates that the modification program was probably at the Yondangpo Shipyard, also located near Haeju.

Recent photo coverage of North Korean naval installations reveals a P-6 order of battle of 10 units for the first time since [ ]. The vessels are located as follows: three P-6 PT at the Kosong Naval Base (East Sea Fleet), one P-6 PT at the Nampo Naval Base (West Sea Fleet), and the six P-6 PGM operational in the West Sea Fleet area.

In addition to the P-6 units, at least six large gunboats (SO-1 PGM, CHODO PGM, K-48 PGM) are generally deployed along the seaward approaches to Inchon. All of these vessels possess heavy firepower in relation to their size. The deployment of these heavily armed units (approximately one-half to two-thirds of the total West Sea Fleet is normally found at these two bases) could be for one of several reasons. First, they may represent a military readiness for possible ROK attacks on the coastal areas of North Korea. The southernmost naval base on the east coast, Kosong, does not, however, have unusually large OB counts, with the exception of the post Pueblo crisis period. Second, these units may represent an offensive force, available to harass civil shipping entering or leaving Inchon. Third, the waters in this area apparently are extensively fished by the North Koreans. The heavily armed gunboats may be on station to prevent harassment of North Korean vessels by ROK "irregular forces."

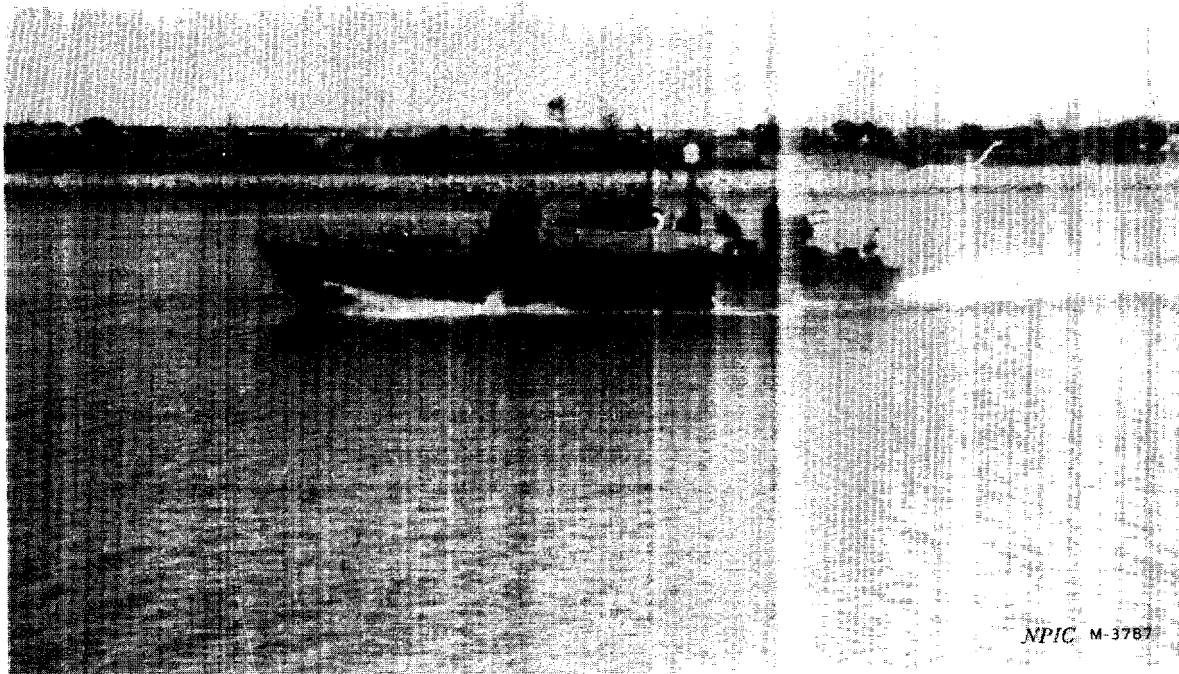


FIGURE 1. CONVENTIONAL P-6 P

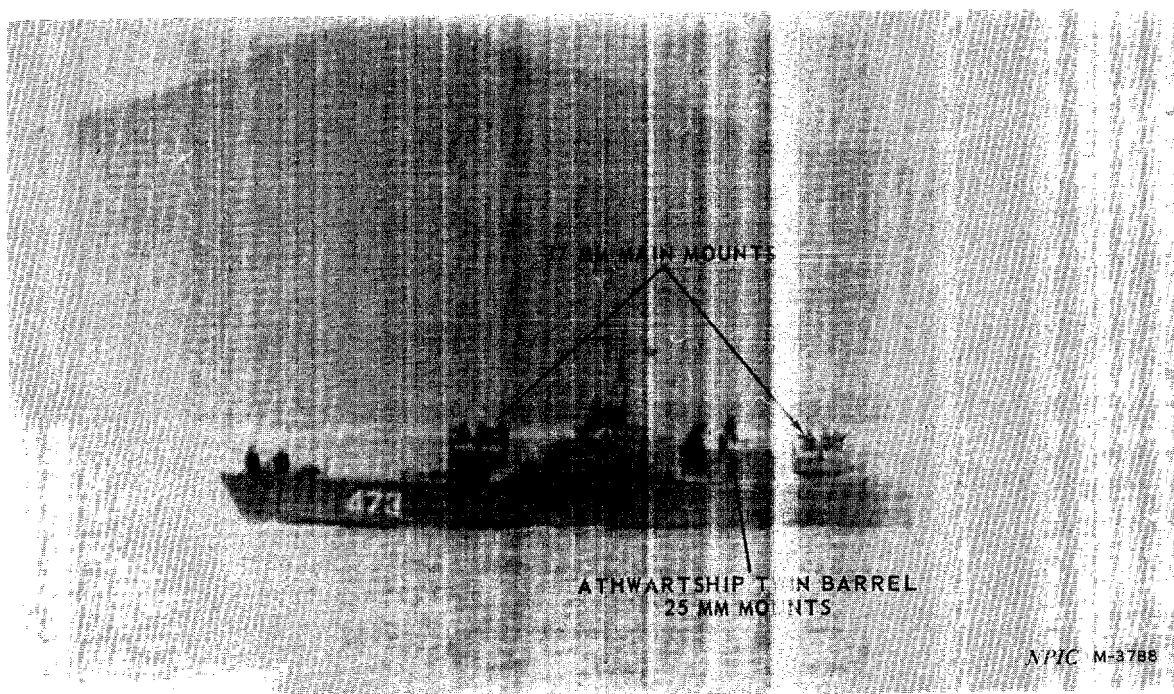


FIGURE 2. ARMAMENT OF P-6 PGM. NOTE THAT SKIN HEAD RADA IS NOT FITTED ON THESE UNITS.

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